REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 2 and 4-8 and claim 1 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 2, and 4-8 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2. Examiner Objections – Specification

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it was not submitted on separate sheet in accordance with MPEP 608.01(b). The Applicants have attached the abstract hereto on a separate sheet,

3. Claim Objections

In paragraph 2, Examiner objected to Claims 1 and 7 because of the following informalities: The phase "and/or" is in the claim, which is not allowed. Applicant has canceled claim 1, and deleted the objected to phrase in amended claims 2 and 7.

In paragraph 4, Examiner stated that Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The word "characterized" it is not standard US practices to use characterized in the claim. Applicant notes that the objected to word was "characteristics" and that claim 1 was not intended to be in two-part form. Nevertheless, claim 1 has been canceled and amended claim 2 does not use the word "characteristics".

4. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Androski (6842513) in view of See (6466591) and further in view of Chen (2001/0055300) and Cetin (2004/0028064). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claim 1 without prejudice. Therefore, this

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rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. Claims 4-8 have been amended to depend from conditionally allowed claim 2.

5. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claim 2. As the Examiner has suggested, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cameron Registration No. 50,298

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Ericsson Inc. 6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11 Plano, Texas 75024 (972) 583-4145 michael.cameron@ericsson.com